AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 9, 11-13, 16, 18, 21, 23, 27, 37, 40, 42-46, 49, and 50 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) An enclosure for a transmission medium of a distribution cable and a drop line, said enclosure comprising:

a housing;

a first port in said housing for allowing a first portion of a distribution cable to enter said housing;

a second port in said housing for allowing a second portion of a distribution cable to enter said housing; and

a drop port in said housing for allowing a drop line to enter said housing via its own port,

wherein, in said housing, a drop line that enters said housing through said drop port can be coupled to a transmission medium of the distribution cable.

2. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 1, wherein the distribution cable comprises an optical fiber distribution cable having at least one individual optical fiber strand as the transmission medium.

3. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 1, wherein the distribution cable comprises a coaxial cable having at least one coaxial transmission medium.

4. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 1, wherein the distribution cable comprises an electrical distribution cable having at least one electrical transmission medium.

5. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 1, wherein the distribution cable comprises a telephone distribution cable having at least one telephone transmission medium.

6. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 1, wherein, in said housing, the drop line that enters said housing through said drop port can be coupled to the transmission medium of the distribution cable through an optical device.

7. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 1, wherein, in said housing, the drop line that enters said housing through said drop port can be coupled to the transmission medium of the distribution cable through an optical splitter.

8. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 1, further comprising a removable drop plug that substantially seals said drop port.

9. (Currently Amended) The enclosure according to Claim 1, further comprising a removable, open drop plug comprising a concave-rounded end that substantially seals said drop port around a drop line.

10. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 1, further comprising a removable, closed drop plug that substantially seals said drop port when said drop port is empty.

11. (Currently Amended) The enclosure according to Claim 1, further comprising a strain relief device capable of coupling a drop line to said housing, said strain relief device comprising:

a support member coupled to said housing and disposed adjacent to said drop port, said support member having a clamp receiving portion comprising an opening leading from an edge of said support member to an interior of said support member; and

a clamping device coupled to said support member at said clamp receiving portion,

wherein said clamp receiving portion of said support member mechanically holds said clamping device in place before said clamping device is tightened.

12. (Currently Amended) The enclosure according to Claim 1,

wherein said enclosure comprises a plurality of drop ports in said housing, each drop port of said plurality of drop ports for allowing a drop line to enter said housing via its own drop port,

wherein, in said housing, a drop line that enters said housing through a drop port of said plurality of drop ports can be coupled to the transmission medium of the distribution cable.

13. (Currently Amended) The enclosure according to Claim 12, further comprising:

an open drop plug comprising a concave-rounded end that substantially seals a respective drop port of said plurality of drop ports through which the drop line enters said housing; and

a closed drop plug that substantially seals a respective empty drop port of the plurality of drop ports.

14. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 13, further comprising a sealing device disposed between said open drop plug and the drop line.

15. (Original) A system for enclosing a transmission medium of a distribution cable and a drop line, the system comprising:

a housing;

a first port in said housing for allowing a first portion of a distribution cable to enter said housing;

a second port in said housing for allowing a second portion of a distribution cable to enter said housing;

a cover plate coupled to said housing, said cover plate covering an interior of said housing when said cover plate is coupled to said housing; and

a sealing member coupled to said cover plate, said sealing member substantially sealing a gap between said cover plate and said housing,

wherein, in the interior of said housing, a drop line can be coupled to a transmission medium of the distribution cable.

16. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 15, further comprising:

a drop port in said housing for allowing a drop line to enter said housing via its own port; and

a removable drop plug that substantially seals said drop port around a drop line,

wherein said sealing member substantially seals the gap between said cover plate and said housing and a gap between said cover plate and said removable drop plug.

17. (Original) The system according to Claim 15, wherein the distribution cable comprises an optical fiber distribution cable having at least one individual optical fiber strand as the transmission medium.

18. (Currently Amended) An enclosure for a transmission medium of a distribution cable and a drop line, said enclosure comprising:

a housing having an interior;

a first port in said housing, said first port providing an opening to the interior of said housing and being sized to allow a distribution cable to enter said housing;

a drop port in said housing, said drop port providing an opening to the interior of said housing and being sized to allow a drop line to enter said housing via its own port.

19. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 18, wherein the distribution cable comprises an optical fiber distribution cable having at least one individual optical fiber strand as the transmission medium.

20. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 18, further comprising a removable drop plug that substantially seals said drop port.

21. (Currently Amended) The enclosure according to Claim 18, further comprising a removable, open drop plug comprising a concave-rounded end that substantially seals said drop port if said drop port contains a drop line.

22. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 18, further comprising a removable, closed drop plug that substantially seals said drop port when said drop port is empty.

23. (Currently Amended) The enclosure according to Claim 18, further comprising a strain relief device capable of coupling a drop line to said housing, said strain relief device comprising:

a support member coupled to said housing, said support member having a clamp receiving portion comprising an opening leading from an edge of said support member to an interior of said support member; and

a clamping device coupled to said support member at said clamp receiving portion,

wherein said clamp receiving portion of said support member mechanically holds said clamping device in place before said clamping device is tightened.

24. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 18, further comprising:

a cover plate removably coupled to said housing, said cover plate covering an interior of said housing when said cover plate is coupled to said housing; and

a sealing member coupled to said cover plate, said sealing member substantially sealing a gap between said cover plate and said housing.

25. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 18, further comprising a splitting device disposed in said housing, said splitting device capable of dividing power of a transmission medium.

26. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 18, wherein the distribution cable comprises an optical fiber distribution cable having at least one individual optical fiber strand as the transmission medium, and

wherein said enclosure further comprises an optical splitter disposed in said housing, said optical splitter capable of dividing power of the transmission medium.

27. (Currently Amended) An enclosure for a transmission medium of a distribution cable and a drop line, said enclosure comprising:

a housing having an interior;

a first port in said housing, said first port providing a first opening having a first cross-sectional area to the interior of said housing;

a second port in said housing, said second port providing a second opening having a second cross-sectional area to the interior of said housing;

a first strain relief device disposed in said housing and adjacent to said first port, said first strain relief device defining a first hole having a third cross-sectional area; and

a second strain relief device disposed in said housing and adjacent to said second port, said second strain relief device defining a second hole having a fourth cross-sectional area,

wherein the second cross-sectional area of the second opening is smaller than the first cross-sectional area of the first opening, and

wherein the fourth cross-sectional area of the second hole is smaller than the third cross-sectional area of the first hole.

28. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 27, further comprising a third strain relief device disposed in said housing and adjacent to said first strain relief device, wherein said first and third strain relief devices form a two-stage strain relief system.

29. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 27, wherein said first strain relief device comprises a different type of strain relief device than said second strain relief device.

30. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 29, wherein said first strain relief device comprises a hose clamp, and wherein said second strain relief device comprises a plastic member that can be fastened back on itself.

31. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 27, further comprising a fiber management apparatus disposed in said housing, wherein said first and second openings of said first and second ports provide access from an exterior of said housing to said fiber management apparatus.

32. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 31, wherein said fiber management apparatus comprises a fiber splice tray.

33. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 27, further comprising a splitting device disposed in said housing, said splitting device capable of dividing power of a transmission medium.

34. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 33, wherein said splitting device comprises an optical splitter.

35. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 27, further comprising a removable drop plug that substantially seals said second port.

36. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 27, further comprising a plug means for substantially sealing said second port while allowing a drop line to enter said housing through said second port.

37. (Currently Amended) The enclosure according to Claim 27, wherein said second strain relief device comprises:

a support member coupled to said housing, said support member having a clamp receiving portion comprising an opening leading from an edge of said support member to an interior of said support member; and

a clamping device coupled to said support member at said clamp receiving portion, and

wherein said clamp receiving portion of said support member mechanically holds said clamping device in place before said clamping device is tightened.

38. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 27, further comprising:

a cover plate coupled to said housing, said cover plate covering the interior of said housing; and

a sealing member coupled to said cover plate, said sealing member substantially sealing a gap between said cover plate and said housing.

39. (Original) The enclosure according to Claim 38, further comprising a removable drop plug that substantially seals said second port,

wherein said sealing member substantially seals the gap between said cover plate and said housing and a gap between said cover plate and said removable drop plug.

40. (Currently Amended) A strain relief device for holding a first transmission medium in place for splicing with a second transmission medium, said strain relief device comprising:

a support member having a clamp receiving portion comprising an opening leading from an edge of said support member to an interior of said support member; and

a clamping device coupled to said support member at said clamp receiving portion,

wherein said clamp receiving portion of said support member mechanically holds said clamping device in place before said clamping device is tightened.

41. (Original) The strain relief device according to Claim 40, wherein said clamping device comprises a plastic band that can be fastened back on itself.

42. (Currently Amended) The strain relief device according to Claim 40, wherein said clamp receiving portion further comprises a hole disposed in the interior of said support member,

wherein the opening in said support member leads from the edge of said support member to the hole, and

wherein said clamping device is coupled to said support member by being inserted into ~~threaded through~~ the hole in said support member.

43. (Currently Amended) The strain relief device according to Claim 40, wherein said clamp receiving portion comprises:

two holes disposed in the interior of said support member; and

two openings in said support member, each opening leading from an edge of said support member to a respective hole,

wherein said clamping device is coupled to said support member by being inserted into ~~threaded through~~ both holes in said support member.

44. (Currently Amended) The strain relief device according to Claim 40, wherein said clamp receiving portion further comprises a slot disposed in the interior of said support member,

wherein the opening in said support member leads from the edge of said support member to the slot, and

wherein said clamping device is coupled to said support member by being inserted into the slot in said support member.

45. (Currently Amended) The strain relief device according to Claim 44, wherein the ~~said~~ slot comprises an ~~: a first~~ opening in said support member disposed substantially perpendicular to an edge of said support member, ~~: and~~

~~a second opening in said support member disposed from said first opening to the edge of said support member.~~

46. (Currently Amended) The strain relief device according to Claim 40, wherein said clamp receiving portion comprises: ~~two slots in said support member, and~~

two openings in said support member, each opening leading from an edge of said support member to the interior of said support member; and

two slots disposed in the interior of said support member,

wherein each opening in said support member leads from the edge of said support member to a respective slot, and

wherein said clamping device is coupled to said support member by being inserted into both slots in said support member.

47. (Original) The strain relief device according to Claim 40, wherein said strain relief device is coupled to an enclosure for containing the splice between the first and second transmission mediums.

48. (Original) The strain relief device according to Claim 40, wherein said strain relief device is coupled to an enclosure for containing the splice between the first and second transmission mediums, and

wherein the first and second transmission mediums each comprise an optical waveguide.

49. (Currently Amended) A strain relief device for holding a first transmission medium in place for splicing with a second transmission medium, comprising:

a support member having a clamp receiving portion comprising an opening leading from an edge of said support member to an interior of said support member.

~~,wherein a clamping device can be coupled to said support member at said clamp receiving portion, and~~

~~wherein said clamp receiving portion of said support member can mechanically hold the clamping device in place before the clamping device is tightened.~~

50. (Currently Amended) The strain relief device according to Claim 49, wherein said clamp receiving portion further comprises a hole disposed in the interior of said support member, and

wherein the opening in said support member leads from the edge of said support member to the hole. ~~the clamping device can be coupled to said support member by being threaded through the hole in said support member.~~

51. (Currently Amended) The strain relief device according to Claim 49, wherein said clamp receiving portion further comprises a slot disposed in the interior of said support member, and

wherein the opening in said support member leads from the edge of said support member to the slot. ~~the clamping device can be coupled to said support member by being inserted into the slot in said support member.~~